39 Akrura's Return Journey and His Visiting of Visnuloka Within the Yamuna River

From the Krsna Book Chapter 39 by His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Srila Prabhupada

Narrator: (this is acted out) Akrura, driving Kamsa's chariot to Mathura, stopped by the banks of the Yamuna River so that Krsna and Balarama could take Their midday bath. After bathing and washing Their faces, They drank the transparent, crystal-clear water of the Yamuna and then took Their seats again on the chariot, under the shade trees.

Akrura then took their permission to also take bath in the Yamuna. Simply by taking a bath in the Yamuna, anyone can diminish the reaction of his sinful activities. According to Vedic ritual, after taking bath in the river, one should stand at least half-submerged and murmur the Gaytri mantra that was received from one's Spiritual Master. While he was standing in the river, Akrura suddenly saw both Krsna and Balarama within the water. He was surprised to see Them there because he was confident that They were sitting on the chariot. Confused, he immediately came out of the water and went to see where the Boys were. He was very surprised to see that They were sitting on the chariot as before!

When he saw Them on the chariot, he began to wonder if he had actually seen Krsna and Balaram in the water. He therefore went back to the river. This time, he saw not only Balarama and Krsna there, but many of the demigods and all of the Siddhas, Caranas, and Gandarvas. They were all standing before the Lord, who was lying down. He also saw the Sesa Naga with thousands of hoods. Lord Sesa Naga was covered by bluish garments, and His necks were all white. The white necks of Sesa Naga appeared exactly like snow-capped mountains. On the coiled lap of Sesa Naga, Akrura saw Krsna sitting very soberly, with four hands, His eyes were like the reddish petals of the lotus flower.

Maha-Visnu appeared very beautiful with His raised nose, broad forehead, spread-up ears and reddish lips. His arms, reaching to His knees, were very strongly built. His shoulders were high; His chest very broad and shaped like the conch shell. His navel was deep, and His abdomen was marked with three lines. His hips were broad and His thighs resembled the trunks of elephants. The other parts of His legs, the joints and lower extremities, were all very beautiful. The nails of His feet were dazzling, and His toes were as beautiful as the petals of the lotus flower.

Akrura also all the intimate associates of Lord Maha-Visnhu surrounding Him - the four Kumaras, Brahma, Siva, the nine great, learned sages and

devotees like Prahlada and Narada and the eight Vasus. Akrura became filled with emotion. He bowed his head and offered his sincere prayers to Lord Visnu.

After Akrura finished his noon rituals, he came before the chariot where Krsna and Balarama were seated and he was again struck with wonder.

Krsna: Akrura, have you seen something wonderful in the water or in space?
Akrura: My dear Lord, all wonderful things that are happening within this world, either in the sky, within the water, or on the land are factually appearing in Your Universal Form. So, when I have seen You, what wonderful things have I not seen?

My dear Lord, there cannot be anything more wonderful than Your transcendental form. When I have seen Your transcendental form, what is there left to see?

Narrator: After saying this, Akrura urged the horses forward and they continued the journey to Mathura City.

By the end of the day, They had almost reached the precincts of Mathura. All the passerbys along the way who say Krsna and Balarama could not help but look at Them again and again. In the meantime, the other residents of Vrndavana, headed by Nanda and Upananda, had already reached Matura and they were awaiting the arrival of Krsna and Balarama.

Upon reaching the entrance to Mathura, Krsna and Balarama got down from the chariot and shook hands with Akrura.

Krsna: You may go home now because We shall enter Mathura later, along with Our associates.

Akrura: My dear Lord, I cannot go to Mathura alone, leaving You aside. I am Your surrendered servant, please do not try to avoid me. Please come, along with Your elder brother and cowherd friends, and sanctify my home.

My dear Lord, if you come, my home will be sanctified by the dust of Your lotus feet. The water emanating from the perspiration of Your lotus feet, namely the Ganges, purifies everyone, including the forefathers, the fire-god and all other demigods. Bali Maharaj has become famous simply by washing Your lotus feet, and all his relatives have achieved the heavenly planets due to his contact with the Ganges water. Bali Maharaj himself enjoyed material opulence and, later on, was elevated to the highest exalted position of liberation. The Ganges water not only sanctifies the three worlds but is carried on the head of Lord Siva. O Supreme Lord of all lords! O master of the universe! I offer my respectful obeisances unto You.

Krsna: Akrura, I shall certainly come to your home, with My elder brother, Balarama, but only after killing all the demons who are envious of the Yadu dynasty. In this way, I shall please all my relatives.

Narrator: Akrura became a little disappointed with the words of Lord Krsna but he could not disregard the order. He therefore entered Mathura and informed Kamsa about the arrival of Krsna and then he entered his own home. (Bhajan)